

**Construction Industry Council**

**Committee on Environment and Technology**

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Meeting No. 001/11 of the Committee on Environment and Technology for 2011 was held on 13 January 2011 (Thursday) at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present:

Conrad WONG	(CW)	Chairman
Andrew CHAN	(AC)	
Siu-hung CHAN	(SHC)	
Hau-wai CHEUNG	(HWC)	
Wai-wah HO	(WWH)	
Wo-hei LAM	(WHL)	
Sam HO	(SHO)	for Director of Buildings
Clarence FUNG	(CF)	for Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Housing)
Tat-tong CHEUNG	(TTC)	Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Ping-wai CHOW	(PCH)	Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union
Wing-wah CHUI	(WWC)	Development Bureau
Anthony FOK	(AFK)	Environmental Protection Department
Pun-hing HO	(PHH)	Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors
Russell JONES	(RJ)	Hong Kong Construction Association
Derrick PANG	(DP)	Chun Wo Development Holdings Ltd

In Attendance:

Ka-chun MAK	(KMK)	Electrical & Mechanical Services Department
Terry TAM	(TTA)	Architectural Services Department
Wai-keung YIU	(WKY)	Architectural Services Department
Guiyi LI	(GYL)	Senior Manager (Research)
Ivan WONG	(IW)	Senior Manager (Council Services) 2
Phoebe LEUNG	(PLG)	Manager (Council Services) 2

For Agenda Item 1.6 only

Daniel BROWN	AECOM Asia Co. Ltd.
Alex YEUNG	AECOM Asia Co. Ltd.

Apologies:

Jan-ming KO	(JMK)
James KWAN	(YCK)
Joseph LEE	(HWL)
Kam-hung YU	(KHY)

Wai-wai YU	(WWY)	
Choi-kai AU	(CKA)	Director of Buildings
Peter LEE	(PL)	The University of Hong Kong
Long PANG	(LP)	Construction Site Workers General Union
Connie YEUNG	(CYG)	Housing Department

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Action**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of the Progress Report of the Previous Meeting**

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/R/005/10 and confirmed the progress report of the last meeting held on Thursday, 7 October 2010 at Hong Kong Construction Association, Hong Kong.

#### **1.2 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

##### **1.2.1 Forum on the use of standardisation and modularisation in Hong Kong works projects**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers was invited to co-organise the forum in April 2011 and the logistics would be worked out shortly.

##### **1.2.2 Forum on the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM)**

Members agreed to invite the Hong Kong Institute of Building Information Modelling to co-organise the forum which was tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2011.

##### **1.2.3 Publication of Guidelines on Trip Ticket System for Disposal of Construction & Demolition Materials in Private Sector Works**

The Guidelines were approved by the CIC at its meeting held on 5 November 2010 and would be published after review by a copywriter and completion of cover design.

##### **1.2.4 Key Performance Indicators for Construction Industry**

Discussed under Agenda Item 1.4

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- 1.2.5 Funding for Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One)

Reported under Agenda Item 1.7

- 1.2.6 Public Consultation on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) gave a briefing on the captioned consultation to the CIC and the HKGBC on 19 November 2010 during which attendees exchanged their views on the proposed strategy and action agenda. The CIC at its meeting held on 17 December 2010 discussed the proposed responses to this public consultation and a draft reply enclosing "a collection of views of some individual CIC members" was subsequently circulated to CIC members for comment. The final version was issued to the EPD on 7 January 2011.

*[Post-meeting notes: The final reply to the EPD was circulated for Members' information on 14 January 2011.]*

- 1.2.7 Construction-related Workers Cards

Discussed under Agenda Item 1.3

- 1.2.8 Construction Technology Forum

Members took note of the Report on Evaluation Questionnaire Findings for Construction Technology Forum tabled at the meeting and welcomed the positive responses from the forum participants. The CIC Secretariat was obtaining consent from the speakers for sharing the presentation/ research materials with the public via the CIC website.

A Member urged that workshops should be organised to help identify research and development opportunities and the Task Force on Research Activities had already proposed inviting down-stream construction practitioners to take part in the workshops. The CIC Secretariat replied that a small-scale workshop would be held in March/ April 2011 and the workshop programme would soon be worked out.

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### 1.3 **Construction Workers Registration Card and Qualification Records**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/001/11 which set out some ideas to facilitate deliberation on the approach and direction to resolve the issue. The interim solution proposed in the Paper was primarily aimed at creating a database for construction-related vocational qualifications to facilitate inspection by concerned authorities or agents, thus reducing the number of cards to be carried by construction workers while working on sites.

A Member suggested using a smart card system instead of the proposed web-based database. The smart card system had some merits. It could allow retrieval of qualification records in a more convenient way and with restrict access to data maintenance, only qualification issuing bodies/ administrators could be allowed to change specific information in the card. However, it was noted that there were a variety of standards for smart card functionality and data security, and different smart card systems adopted by individual organisations were not compatible with one another. Should a generic system be developed for adoption by all stakeholders, the system development costs would be high and the willingness of individual organisations to replace their current systems had yet to explore.

Another Member pointed out that some concerned ordinances required workers to “carry” the card with him and a web-based database might not be a feasible solution to the problem.

Some Members expressed their concerns about information security in both web-based database and smart card system. They also advised that measures should be in place to ensure compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and mitigate associated risks. Unnecessary liability arising from provision of inadequate qualification records should also be considered.

A Member suggested considering the cost-effectiveness of developing the database to avoid the multiple-card hassle.

Members noted that there were other types of worker cards issued by individual companies such as contractors. The Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) would meet with some card system providers to explore possible solutions.

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Members also noted that the Development Bureau (DEVB) had studied the problem of multiple construction-related cards and related legal requirements particularly those relating to the qualifications stated in paragraph 3.1 of the Paper. The DevB was requested to provide Members with relevant findings for further discussion.

DEVB

Members then agreed to continue the discussion after collecting the above-mentioned information from the DEVB and the HKCA.

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1.4 **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Construction Industry**

It was reported that the draft proposal for setting KPIs for the construction industry in Hong Kong was being revised with reference to comments from all CIC committees. The revised draft would be submitted to Members for discussion at the next meeting.

1.5 **Commitment towards Sustainable Urbanisation in Hong Kong – Construction Industry Perspective**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/002/11 and supplementary information on the research project entitled “Commitment towards Sustainable Urbanisation in Hong Kong – Construction Industry Perspective” (Research-SUHK) tabled at the meeting.

Members were aware that the research team had given a presentation to the Committee in July 2010 to elaborate on the objectives and significance of the Research-SUHK. The discussion had been suspended pending the finalisation of CIC Research Funding Application Procedures.

As for the research proposal, Members viewed that the scope of sustainable urbanisation could be broad and might include town planning and some social-economic matters outside the construction industry. Some Members considered that the Research-SUHK could facilitate the CIC to develop a network with construction industry stakeholders in other Asian cities though the research outcomes might not result in practical application and tangible benefits at the moment.

*[WWH left the meeting at this juncture.]*

It was noted from the minutes of AsiaConstruct Meeting that the

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participating countries were about to agree on the definition of sustainable urbanisation. Members considered that it would be good for the research team to provide them with the agreed definition. After much deliberation, Members requested the research team to submit an executive summary of the Research-SUHK highlighting the following information:

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- (a) a more precise description of the study scope addressing construction-related issues;
- (b) deliverables directly relating to the construction industry and their applications and benefits to the local construction industry;
- (c) cost estimates for the research project and if possible, funding to be allocated to the part pertaining to the construction industry;
- (d) the definition of Sustainable Urbanisation as agreed by the AsiaConstruct Network;
- (e) whether the information and data of the studies conducted by other AsiaConstruct Countries would be made available to the Hong Kong representative for benchmarking or comparison; and
- (f) whether the research team had approached or considered approaching other organisations or the Development Bureau for funding as well?

Members noted that the CIC had deliberated on the proposed Research Funding Application Procedures and resolved to accept the recommendation of the Committee on Administration and Finance that the CIC should focus on initiating research projects as it considered necessary but not taking the role of a funding body. As such, the approach for the CIC to initiate research projects through tendering was approved whereas the approach for the CIC to provide funding to research projects submitted by research institutes was not accepted.

Members considered that tendering might not be applicable to some cases. Taking Research-SUHK as an example, the research brief had been submitted by the research team to the AsiaConstruct Network and it would be unlikely that the CIC could put the research proposal out to tender and appoint another research institution to undertake the Research-SUHK. Members also

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suspected that the CIC might not have adequate resources and expertise to develop a comprehensive research brief should the CIC consider initiate a similar research on sustainable urbanisation. A Member however pointed out that it would deserve considering single tender invitation should good justifications such as specialties of the research, capabilities of the research team and project relevancy to the construction industry be given.

*[DP and WHL left the meeting at this juncture.]*

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

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/003/11. It was reported that the Task Force on Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles held a meeting on 11 January 2011 to discuss the draft Review Report of the Adhesion Technologies for External Wall Tiles and Rendering. However, the meeting notes of that Task Force meeting had yet to be available.

*[Mr Daniel BROWN and Mr Alex YEUNG of AECOM arrived at the meeting at this juncture.]*

Mr David BROWN then gave a presentation on the draft Review Report with highlights on the initial findings about the problems and the proposed laboratory testing, which had already taken into account the recent comments from the Task Force on the draft Review Report. Members considered that the initial findings of the review and the proposed laboratory testing were on the right track and advised AECOM to proceed with the research project.

*[Mr Daniel BROWN and Mr Alex YEUNG left the meeting after the presentation.]*

**1.7 Research on River Sand Substitutes for Concrete Production and Cement Sand Mortar Production (Phase One) – Progress Update**

Members took note of the Paper CIC/ENT/P/004/11.

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

Members took note of Paper CIC/ENT/P/005/11.

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**1.9 Any Other Business**

Considering the imminent manpower shortage in the construction industry, it was suggested that modular construction could be a way to improve the construction process and alleviate the problem in certain trades. As such, Members agreed to set up a task force to study the adoption of modular construction in Hong Kong and associated manpower issues.

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**1.10 Tentative Date of Next Meeting for 2011**

31 March 2011 at 2:30 pm at Hong Kong Construction Association, 16/F, 180 – 182 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

**All to note**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.